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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/084,308

02/28/2002

Mayo Toyota

04329.2748

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22852

7590

06/30/2006

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EXAMINER

HANNE, SARA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2179

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/084,308	TOYOTA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Sara M. Hanne	2179	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/28/06.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to the amendment received on March 28, 2006. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Block et al., US Patent Application Publication 2003/0050976, and further in view of Shtivelman, US Patent 6346952.

As in Claims 1, 7 and 13, Block et al. teaches a community-based collaborative knowledge system, method and program for client terminals comprising an access control means for making user authentication of a client terminal as an access request source so as to permit the client terminal to post a message ("providing access to post/retrieve information", Par. 11) and community processing means for managing a virtual community in which plurality of client terminals can participate, and categorizing and accumulating messages posted, to the virtual community, from the client terminals, which are granted access permission by said access control means, for respective topics (various pages of Figure 2 and corresponding text), the community processing means including: user access limiting means managing community type ("Team Home" "League Home" "My home") indicating an open level of each virtual community (X=access for page), and a member type indicating a participation attribute of a user to the virtual community (anonymous visitor, invited guest, participant, administrator), and determining accessible virtual community for each of the client terminals (Figure 2 determines the accessibility of the communities for every client that accesses the system) using a combination of the community type and member type for each virtual community as an access destination ("persons can have access to different information based upon the particular access level assigned to that person in relation to a specific community", Par. 18) and providing a window which allows each of the client terminals

to access the accessible virtual community (user accesses accessible page ie., Fig. 3, 4 and corresponding text). While Block teaches access control to categorized and accumulating messages of a virtual community wherein access permission is done by topic, they fail to show the summary message managing means for managing summary messages which summarize messages accumulated in the virtual community for respective topics as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Shtivelman teaches a messaging similar to that of Block. In addition, Shtivelman further teaches summary message managing means for managing summary messages which summarize and include a conclusion associated with messages accumulated in the virtual community for respective topics as recited in the claims (Fig. 8 and corresponding text). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Block and Shtivelman before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the access control to categorized and accumulating messages of a virtual community wherein access permission is done by topic taught by Block to include the summary message managing means of Shtivelman, in order to obtain a access control means for allowing user's to view summary messages according to their access permissions for respective topics. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a quick signally method to alert the user of the thread content would have been obtained, as taught by Shtivelman.

As in Claims 2, 8 and 14, Block et al. teaches the community-based collaborative knowledge system, method and program wherein the user access limiting means determines an access that a client terminal, as an access request source, can make on

the basis of the combination of the community type and member type, and provides a window which allows only the determined to access the client terminal as the access request source (Par. 15 et seq.).

As in Claims 3, 9 and 15, Block et al. teaches the community-based collaborative knowledge system, method and program wherein the virtual community has a community type "membership" for only a group of authorized members (Administrators may view and edit all contents of the page), the user access limiting means permits a user whose member type for the virtual community is "member" to post and browse messages ("providing access to post/retrieve information", Par. 11), and inhibits user whose member type for the virtual community is unauthorized, "anonymous member" (Figure 2, "Anonymous visitor") from posting and browsing messages (no access, ref. 202).

As in Claims 4, 10 and 16, Block et al. teaches the community-based collaborative knowledge system, method and program wherein when the virtual community has a community type "membership" for only a group of authorized members (administrators), the user access limiting means permits a user whose member type for the virtual community is "member", to post and browse all messages (See the rejection on Claim 3 *supra*), including summary messages ("The personal home page, and the pages linked behind it, display summaries of the information to which the individual has access", Par. 25), and permits a user whose member type for the virtual community is unauthorized "intending member" or "anonymous member" to

browse only summary messages having an open attribute of the summary messages in the virtual community (Par. 15 and Figure 2).

As in Claims 5, 11 and 17, Block et al. teaches the community-based collaborative knowledge system, method and program wherein the community types of each virtual community includes "open" that allows everyone to participate (League Home and Team Home are open to everyone), "membership" for only a group of authorized members (viewing "can see more" only by invite), and "closed" that is not open to the public other than authorized members (viewing the "still more" content only by participants), the member type indicating the participation attribute of the user includes "member" who has been authorized to participate (Participant), "temporary registered member" who is temporarily registered as a member (Invited Guest), "intending member" who has applied to participate but has not been authorized to participate yet (Par. 30), and "other" (anonymous visitor) and the user access limiting means determines accesses that the client terminal, as the access request source can make on the basis of combinations between "open", "membership", and "closed" community types, and the "member", "temporary registered member", "intending member", and "other" member types (Figure 2 and corresponding text).

As in Claim 6, Block et al. teaches the community-based collaborative knowledge system, method and program for searching messages accumulated in virtual communities in response to a search request from the client terminal (request My Messages ref. 316), and wherein the user access limiting means provides a search result list consisting of message search results that browse authority of the client

terminal as the search request source can cover of messages which match the search result on the basis of a combination of the community type of the virtual community which is to undergo search, and the member type of the client terminal as the search request source for the virtual community (Par. 121-122).

As in Claims 12 and 18, Block et al. teaches the community-based collaborative knowledge system, method and program for searching messages accumulated in virtual communities in response to a search request from the client terminal (request My Messages ref. 316), and wherein the user access limiting means provides a search result list consisting of message search results limited on the basis of a combination of the community type of the virtual community which is to undergo search, and the member type of the client terminal as the search request source for the virtual community (Par. 121-122 and Claim 1 rejection *supra*).

As in Claims 19, 21 and 23, Block et al. and Shtivelman teaches a community-based collaborative knowledge system, method and program for client terminals comprising an access control means for making user authentication of a given client terminal included among the client terminals as an access request source so as to permit the client terminal to post a message and community processing means for managing a virtual community in which plurality of client terminals can participate, and categorizing and accumulating messages posted, to the virtual community, from the client terminals, which are granted access permission by said access control means, for respective topics, the community processing means including summary message managing means for managing summary messages which summarize and include a



conclusion associated with messages accumulated in the virtual community for respective topics, user access limiting means managing community type indicating an open level of each virtual community, and a member type indicating a participation attribute of a user to the virtual community (See Claim 1 rejection *supra*), and Block further teaches when the virtual community has a community type "membership" for only a group of authorized members (administrators), the user access limiting means permits a user whose member type for the virtual community is "member", to post and browse all messages (See the rejection on Claim 3 *supra*), including summary messages ("The personal home page, and the pages linked behind it, display summaries of the information to which the individual has access", Par. 25), and permits a user whose member type for the virtual community is unauthorized "intending member" or "anonymous member" to browse only summary messages having an open attribute of the summary messages in the virtual community (Par. 15 and Figure 2).

As in Claims 20, 22 and 24, Block et al. teaches a community-based collaborative knowledge system, method and program for client terminals comprising an access control means for making user authentication of a client terminal as an access request source so as to permit the client terminal to post a message and community processing means for managing a virtual community in which plurality of client terminals can participate and categorizing and accumulating messages posted, to the virtual community, from the client terminals, which are granted access permission by said access control means, for respective, search means for searching messages accumulated in virtual communities in response to a search request from the client

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terminal (Finder function), the community processing means including user access limiting means managing community type indicating an open level of each virtual community, and a member type indicating a participation attribute of a user to the virtual community (See Claim 1 rejection *supra*), and providing a search result list consisting of message search results limited on the basis of a combination of the community type of the virtual community which is to undergo search, and the member type of the client terminal as the search request source for the virtual community (Par. 121-122, 127). While Block teaches access control to categorized and accumulating messages of a virtual community wherein access permission is done by topic, they fail to show the full-text search as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Shtivelman teaches a messaging similar to that of Block. In addition, Shtivelman further teaches full-text search as recited in the claims (Col. 3, line 26 et seq.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Block and Shtivelman before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the access control to categorized and accumulating messages of a virtual community wherein access permission is done by topic taught by Block to include the full-text search of Shtivelman, in order to obtain a access control means for allowing user's to search full-text messages according to their access permissions for respective topics. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a quick signally method sort thread content according to user discretion would have been obtained, as taught by Shtivelman.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 3/28/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the applicant's arguments that the prior art of record fails to teach "summary message managing means for managing summary messages which summarize and include a conclusion associated with messages accumulated in the virtual community for respective topics" as recited in the claims, the examiner disagrees. A summary and conclusion message boardlines on nondescriptive subject matter. The explanation in the specification for summary conclusions states "Using this creation support function, a "summary" as a conclusion of a given topic can be easily created while quoting messages, appended files, and the like ...". Shtivelman does simply this. Keywords taken from the messages constitute quoting and give the user an idea of what is in the messages.

In response to the applicant's arguments that the prior art of record fails to teach the subject matter of Claim 20, the examiner disagrees. The search results are limited by the community type and member type. Participant can only receive information from teams and leagues in which they are participating in along with their membership statuses which further limits options they may receive.

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara M. Hanne whose telephone number is (571) 272-4135. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am-4:00pm, off on alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, WEILUN LO can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

smh



**WEILUN LO**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**